

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 7, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, and 14-15 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, and 14-15 have been amended. Claims 2-3, 7-8, and 12-13 have been cancelled. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Specification Objections

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract contains more than 150 words (See 37 CFR 1.72(b) and MPEP §608.01(b)). Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to contain less than 150 words. Accordingly, applicants submit the abstract is allowable and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15 are dependent on claims 1, 6, and 11. Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis error. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-12, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pase et al.* (hereinafter *Pase*) (US 5,566,321) in view of *Steensgaard* (US2002/0095453 A1).

Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 3, 8, and 13 (and intervening claims), respectively, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Therefore, claims 1, 6, 11, and their dependent claims are believed to be allowable and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants are not conceding that claims 1, 6, and 11 are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

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